

from considering several very important amendments to the State Department Authorization Act. Among them is one that I offered that would have made the Navy's Marine One helicopter program subject to existing export control laws—that would also have limited the ability of foreign companies working on the Marine One program to sell the technology used in the President's helicopter to countries like Iran and other threats to our national security.

Unfortunately, this is a very real possibility. In January, the Marine One contract was awarded to a European consortium led by Finmeccanica Italy and its British subsidiary, Agusta Westland, and only a month later, both companies appeared at an aerospace tradeshow—in Iran. The American president of Finmeccanica's U.S. division explained his company's presence in Iran by saying "I think they're our enemy," going on to explain, quote, "In Europe, they don't call [Iran] the enemy"—as if that somehow makes it acceptable to sell them our most advanced aerospace technology.

The notion that the companies building the president's helicopter, working with sensitive American technology, may be doing business with a member of what the president himself called the "Axis of Evil" should give us all very serious concern. Do we want these companies to be able to easily transfer Marine One technology to Iran or other countries? Because that is a very real possibility given the contract the Navy has signed.

Mr. Speaker, few images capture the U.S. Presidency like that of the Marine One helicopter landing on the White House lawn, the president emerging from under the blades—it is ingrained in our collective national consciousness. Even 7 months after this decision was made, I still find it hard to believe that the next generation of the president's helicopters will be largely built not by American but foreign workers, with 36 percent of the work on the Marine One program performed in England and Italy. Indeed, the Navy expects to procure 32 aircraft, the first seven of which will be constructed almost entirely in England. Only the final assembly will be done in the United States. This ought to be a matter of our national pride.

While I believe that all of this work should be done in the United States, my amendment would have at least ensured that the work on this program—funded by the U.S. taxpayer, but done outside the United States—will not fall into the hands of state sponsors of terrorism.

To be clear, I have no quarrel with Lockheed-Martin or Bell Helicopters, who are partners with Finmeccanica and Agusta Westland in this program. Like Sikorsky, they make many fine products upon which our troops rely, and they employ thousands of hard-working men and women whose love of country is unrivaled. But, Mr. Speaker, the decision to award a large portion of this contract to European companies is deeply misguided and could have an adverse impact on our national security.

Mr. Speaker, the Marine One helicopter is expected to have the most advanced parts, security features, communications equipment and survivability of any rotorcraft in our military's arsenal. And to allow that technology and equipment to fall into the hands of threats to our national security is a risk that none of

use should take. Yet that is exactly what the House Republican leadership has forced us into doing.

I urge my colleagues to reject this rule so that the House may have the opportunity to consider this critically important issue.

IN MEMORY OF BRENDA E.
PILLORS, PH.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brenda E. Pillors on behalf of Ms. Fredette West.

Mr. Speaker, on June 12, 2005, God's whisper to "come home" came to Brenda Pillors (Chief of Staff to Congressman Ed Towns), our sister in service and life on the frontlines in the battles and opportunities to improve life and health for all.

It is with honor that I present this special tribute in memory of our outstanding colleague and dear friend, Brenda. Today, July 20th marks what would have been a celebration of Brenda's earthly birthday. Colleagues, family and friends know that Brenda did so much to improve the quality of life for all people.

Brenda developed health policy and legislation that positively impacted public health domestically and internationally. Her expertise and outstanding contributions abound in the area of eliminating health disparities among communities of color, women and children, as well as the indigent and marginalized in society. She tirelessly worked on a broad range of social policy issues including Medicare and Medicaid, healthcare reform, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, obesity, sickle cell disease, cancer, heart disease, clinical life trials, bioengineering, health technology, alternative medicine, behavioral health, workforce diversity, and affirmative action. Likewise, she worked collaboratively with various health commissions, agencies, advisory councils, and programs including NIH, FDA, SAMHSA, CDC, HRSA, AHRQ, OMH, OCR, 10M, and the National Health Service Corps.

Brenda Pillors was always present to advocate on a range of public health issues from pharmacology, immunology, vaccines, hospitals and community health centers, men's health, environmental health, nutrition, birth defects, the uninsured and underinsured, to urban and rural health, infant mortality, head start, mental health, primary care practitioners and community health workers, researchers, private and public sector officials, and on behalf of everyday citizens like you and me. Her presence and tremendous heart still have far-reaching impact.

We will always remember you Brenda. Your dedication, commitment, leadership, expertise, understanding, voice, smile, and laughter will forever live in our hearts. Brenda Pillors was a true leader in the area of public service and an exemplary servant in God's army of love.

My "sister" we'll miss you always. Your legacy of achievements is written in the hearts of those you touched. Your presence and legacy is embedded in the walls and along the halls of the U.S. Congress, and is also written throughout the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and in legislation, Congressional hearing questions,

transcripts, committee, conference, and agency reports.

Brenda truly lived a purpose driven life. Thousands of lives have been improved and saved because of her life's works. The majority of the people who have and will benefit from her work will never know her. The lives and bright futures of generations to come will benefit from her work. We have always been proud of Brenda.

Dear Brenda, we thank, salute, and honor you. Our "sister in service" who endeavored throughout her life to ensure justice and equality for all—Brenda Pillors, PhD.

Mr. Speaker, on this day that would have marked Brenda's 53rd birthday we reflect on our love, appreciation and respect for Brenda Pillors. We thank God and her family for sharing her with the nation, the world and us.

IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSMAN
JAKE PICKLE

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit this statement for the RECORD.

EULOGY FOR J.J. PICKLE

(By Dr. William H. Cunningham)

Jake Pickle always referred to The University of Texas at Austin as "my University," and no one ever had a greater right to that claim. When Jake said that, it was an expression not of what The University owed to him, but of his abiding love for it and all that he wanted to do to benefit it.

And benefit The University he did. Across all the generations, since The University was only a dream in the heart of Dr. Ashbel Smith, no one has ever loved The University of Texas more than Jake Pickle.

No one ever stood by The University with greater loyalty in its time of need.

No one has ever worked harder to help it realize its vision of greatness.

No one has ever given it wiser counsel or embraced it with greater love.

And The University never had a greater friend.

So today we remember and celebrate a man in whose heart The University held a central place. And we remember and celebrate also the fact that Jake Pickle was central to the rise of The University as an internationally prominent institution.

The story of The University's development and flourishing since the mid-20th century is a complex one, with many chapters and versus and many personalities. But no one should ever underestimate the crucial importance of the fact that during much of that time The University was represented in Congress by Jake Pickle.

I had the good fortune to talk with Jake on many occasions about his experiences at The University, and he often said that his decision to enroll at U. T. was one of the most important decisions he ever made.

To a large extent, we can thank the Great Depression for that decision. Jake's older brother and sisters had gone to Baylor, and everybody was assuming that Jake would follow them, but the Depression intervened and changed his plans dramatically.

By the time Jake graduated from high school in his home town of Big Spring in 1932, the family could no longer afford to send him to Baylor, so Jake decided to enroll at The University.